



THE RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
408 Division Street, Northfield, MN 55057

2007 Fall Issue

The Rice County Genealogical Society meets at 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday on even months at the Rice County Historical Society Museum, 1814 NW 2nd Avenue, Faribault, and on odd months in the Marston Headley Research Room in the lower level of the Northfield Historical Society Building, 408 Division Street, Northfield. Meetings are suspended during June, July and August. Special meetings may be called for research trips or for working on projects.

MEETING DATES:

Sept. 18, 2007

Oct. 16, 2007

Nov. 20, 2007

Dec. 18, 2007

Jan. 15, 2008

Feb. 19, 2008

Mar. 18, 2008

Apr. 15, 2008

May 20, 2008

Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting. Newsletter items due

Faribault: 2:00 regular meeting. Approve the Fall 2007 Newsletter and set date for printing and mailing.

Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting.

Election of officers for 2008. Dues for 2008 due.

Faribault: 11:30 Annual Christmas get-together at The

Depot. 2:00 short meeting at the Rice Co. Historical Society Museum. Final date for 2008 dues to be paid.

Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting.

Faribault: 2:00 regular meeting.

Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting. Newsletter items due

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Northfield: 2:00 regular meeting Approve the Spring

2008 Newsletter and set date for printing and mailing

Trip to review records at Northfield Twp.

To be scheduled:

OFFICERS:

President.....Audrey DeMann

Vice President.....Arlene Williams

Secretary-Treasurer.....Dorothy Herkenratt

Newsletter Editor/Publisher Dorothy Herkenratt

Dues are for the calendar year and are \$10 for an individual and \$12 for a family.

The newsletter is included with membership

Members currently are actively working on their family lines and in searching out the history of those who came to live in or who passed through Rice County. When we have queries from others not in our family lines who seek help on their research projects, we refer them to one of our current members who is willing to do research for a fee. To secure more information on services she offers and her fee schedule, please contact her directly: Norma Gilbertson, 808 E. 5th St., Northfield, MN 55057 Ph.: 507-664-9591 e.mail: njgilber@rconnect.com

Please call ahead to schedule research in the Marston Headley Research Room.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the death of one of our members, Donna Cheney Freeman, who died at her home on July 4, 2007. Funeral services were held July 9th in the Church of the Holy Cross in Dundas and interment was in Groveland Cemetery. She is survived by three sons, Eugene, David and Craig; one daughter, Nada Oanes; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her cherry disposition, sunny smile and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

MINNESOTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS RELOCATING

Word has been received that the Minnesota Genealogical Society has determined where their new headquarters will be located and has completed a lease for Suite 200 (second floor) at 1185 Concord Street in South St. Paul. This gives MGS slightly more floor space than they have at the current location at Golden Valley. The Library is open until further notice, but check ahead to make sure the facility is open. Their current address is 5768 Olson Memorial Highway (the north frontage road of Highway 55) in Golden Valley. They may be reached by phoning them at 763-595-9347 or by using their web address: <<http://75.144.37.17.210/m3/apps/m3opac/MGSLibrary>>

At their new location, MGS will be in northern Dakota County near the Dakota County Genealogical Society. The Minnesota History Center and its library in downtown St. Paul are only four miles to the north. Their new location is the former CENEX headquarters south of I-94 or north of I-494, a building with a distinctive exterior with multi-colored squares that some refer to as the 'Rubik's Cube' building. There will be ample parking as the parking lot accommodates well over 100 vehicles, with overflow parking across the street.

MGS will be moving to its new headquarters during the last week of October, and the last official meeting at the current location will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 (the Norwegian-American Genealogical Association). After that, October 25 - October 31, the library will be officially closed and materials will start to be moved to the new location. On Saturday, November 10th, the library will reopen for a "dry run." The Open House is planned for December 1st.

JOHN & JAN DALBY RECEIVE MORE ACCOLADES

While we have mentioned the Dalby Data Base and have given a listing of its contents in previous news letters, both the Faribault Daily News and the Northfield News featured the couple in articles, including photos, this past July. (See complete articles in the July 25, 2007 issues, on page A3:2-3 of the Faribault Daily News and pages 1A:2-3-4-5 and 16A:1-2-3 of the Northfield News.)

The article mentions that John and Jan are up before 6:00 a.m. and "begin their work compiling, typing, indexing and otherwise documenting the names and lives of thousands of residents from the nine counties that rest between the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers." Their website dalbydata.com receives 300 visits a day by people tracking family members, working to complete genealogy charts, or looking up what happened to people from their hometown. In 2005 their website was awarded the Best State Site by Family Tree genealogy magazine.

Following a heart attack which prevented him from any strenuous work, John began the compilation of records in 1981 with entering the cemetery records gathered by the Northfield Genealogical Society (now the Rice County Genealogical Society) on a database. The Dalby website grew from the cemetery search database to include information from obituaries, church records, city directories and yearbooks. Currently John and Jan are working at cataloging names from published obituaries.

John was honored in 1997 by the Northfield Library for helping them convert their card filing system to a database. The Rice County Genealogical Society honored John for his genealogical work by making him an honorary member at their March 16, 2004 meeting at the Dalby home.

If you are in the area, give the Dalbys a call. They are always happy to show their extensive collections and they are unfailing helpful if you call for assistance on a genealogical problem.

THE USE OF NEWSPAPERS AS SECONDARY SOURCES

Have you run out of sources for learning what Great-grandfather Samuel did for a living? Where he lived during his lifetime? Where he died? Who his siblings were? Where did Great-grandmother Helen originally live and what did she do? Have the usual courthouse records disappeared due to floods, fires or theft? Did you lose track of where someone could be located in an earlier census? Do you have only what family has recounted about an ancestor with no way to verify the information?

Try the newspaper(s) published in the area you are researching and you may be surprised the amount of information which is available in old obituaries, wedding notices and accounts, and even local news items. The following are some examples of information available which, even if a secondary record, may furnish the very information you needed or may point you in the direction you need to follow to find the illusive record. They can also help you confirm family lore when no other records exist.

I was fortunate to have inherited from Grace A. Whittier a onion-skin pamphlet entitled "Record of the Family of David Clark, of Northampton, Mass. Who Was Born September 24th, 1729, and died November 18th, 1810 - collected and arranged by Lewis H. Clark, of Sodus, Wayne Co., N. Y. published by Summers & Brother, Book and Job Printers, Syracuse, Daily Standard Office. 1857" which contained family history back to 1630 and down to what was collected from each family who had descended from David Clark. This furnished the following: "Solomon Clark born Jan. 10th, 1759, Northampton, died Feb. 4th, 1826, Bennington, Vt. Solomon Clark and Sarah Turner, married 1784.... Their 7th child: John Turner, born Oct. 3rd, 1794, Westhampton, died Sept. 1st, 1848, Raymond, Wis. John Turner Clark and Rebecca Rogers, married March 11th, 1820. Rebecca Rogers, born June 22d, 1797, Sidney, N. Y.

Children: 1st. Almira A., born April 2nd, 1821, Portland, N. Y. 2nd. Sarah A., born Aug. 13th, 1823, Portland 3rd. Solomon, born Feb. 22d, 1826, Portland. 4th. Minerva B., born Oct. 15th, 1828, Portland. 5/6th. Martha and Maria, born Aug. 11, 1831, Portland. 7th. Joel R., born Dec. 9th, 1834, Pomfret, N. Y. 8th. Homer H., born March 18th, 1839, Pomfret.

This family resides in Raymond, Wis. Almira was married in 1842, to Clinton Fay, and lives in Chatauqua co. N. Y. Sarah Ann, about the same time to George Green; they live eleven miles from Milwaukie, Wis. on the Big Bend road, and have three children: Franklin, Charles and Clarissa. Solomon was married Dec. 24th, 1848."

I needed to confirm the date and place of death for my husband's 2nd great-grandfather, John Turner Clark. I found a news clipping pasted in the Cascade Mill Book used as a family scrapbook. You see that it doesn't give you the paper's name, the date of issue or the page, but it does give valuable information nonetheless.

1848

At Raymond, Racine Co., Wisconsin, Sept. 1st, Mr. John T. Clark, formerly of Pittsfield, Mass; aged 54 years.

This gives the name, the date and place of death, age (which furnishes an approximate date of birth) and where John Clark formerly lived. The middle initial is important as it confirms that this individual is indeed John Turner Clark who had moved to Wisconsin.

Another news clipping furnishes information on Richard's 2nd great-grandmother, Rebecca Rogers Clark. Note that again the paper's name, date of publication and the page on which the obituary appeared are not noted, just the year.

1893

Died, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. S. Drake, in Bridgewater, Minn., March 5. Mrs. Rebecca (Rogers) Clark, aged 96 years 8 months and 11 days. Deceased was born in Sidney, Delaware Co., N.Y. in 1797, from there she removed with her parents to Chautauqua County when about 18 years of age where she was married March 11, 1820, to John P. Clark. She was the mother of 8 children, 6 of whom survive her. The eldest now being 70 years of age, also 30 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great grandchildren. She removed to Wisconsin in 1840 where her husband died Sept. 1, 1848. She came to Minnesota in 1858, and has made her home with her daughter, near Northfield, most of the time for 13 years. She had for years lived a consistent Christian life, and fell asleep glad to at last be with her Savior.

Note that this obituary not only gives where Rebecca died, but also her age, date and where she was

born, about when she moved from her place of birth to where she was married, when and to whom she was married (note that John Clark's middle initial here is given as P.), the number of living children Rebecca and John had had, the number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. It also gives when Rebecca and John moved to Wisconsin and the date John died. Also it gives the date when Rebecca came to Minnesota and where and with whom she made her home before her death.

The next problem to be solved was to confirm the names of all 8 of her children, 30 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren. We had the names of the 8 children from the information in the booklet, but little more information there, and the names confirmed by one of the grandchildren still living, Agnes Drake Wirtz, Richard's great-aunt, who furnished the following information during various conversations:

Martha Clark, who married Edwin Sumner Drake, had a twin sister, Maria, and they lived near Racine, Wisconsin. Their father, John Turner Clark, married Rebecca Rogers who was born and raised in New York State. Rebecca Roger's father married twice and had two children by his first wife: Rebecca and her sister Betsy. The Rogers family lived near Brocton, New York in Chautauqua Co. near Fredonia.

John Turner Clark was a carpenter, "joiner" and cabinet maker who served in the front lines in the War of 1812. It was from his service that Rebecca received a pension. Great-aunt Agnes Wirtz said that her mother's siblings were

1) Almira was married in NY State to Clinton Fay (who was deaf & dumb) and lived in Brockton, Chautauqua Co., NY. They had Cary (boy), Alice, Lucy and Julia Fay and 2 stillborn infants.

2) Sarah married George Green (who was killed by lightning) and lived in Elkhorn, WI, near Racine. They had Charles (a bank president), George (a doctor), Clara, Alice and Annie. The oldest son was an idiot.

3) Solomon married Dianthia (who went blind). They lived east of Northfield and then went to Western Minnesota. They had 8 daughters. Etta married Charlie Workman. Lavinia married Jim Philbrooks and lives at Webster, SD. Sara married Lon Ahlers. Edith married Mike Coburn and lives in CA. Edith's twin died. Martha married Marion Watts and lives in Zumbrota. Ida married a Hanson and lives in Windom, MN. The 8th girl was stillborn.

4) Minerva married Joseph Dykeman and they had no children. She died young.

5-6) Martha (my mother) and Maria, her twin. My mother went back from Racine to stay with her sister Almira so she could attend the Seminary for Young Females until she was qualified to be a teacher. When she came back to WI to teach, her first superintendent and the person to issue her first teacher's certificate so she could teach was Dr. Scofield. She earned \$1.25 a week for teaching and roomed around a week a place (free) for the rest of her pay. (Maids only received 75¢ a week in those days.) After she and father were married, they later came to Bridgewater Township with the Scofield family and they settled claims along side each other. It was Dr. Scofield who ushered the Drake babies into the world. Mother told of Dr. Scofield putting his horse in the Drake barn in WI and sleeping during an epidemic because, if he went home, his calls would take him out again before he could get any rest.

6) Maria married Rufus Rogers, a widower with grown children and her second cousin on her mother's side. They lived at Zumbrota and had 4 boys and a daughter: Charles, Clinton, Homer, Eddy and Julia. Julia married Joel Leahy.

7) Joel lived in Cottonwood and Windom and had daughter Nellie (who later lived in Minot), Bertha and Eddie who died.

8) Homer served as a 1st Lieut. in the Civil War. His wife, Sophronia, had told him not to come back if he was a cripple, so when he was wounded, he refused to have the wounded arm amputated, and died of gangrene.

Homer's obituary gives further information:

1863

CLARK---At Nashville, Oct. 20, 1863, Lieut. H. H. Clark, of the 16th U. S. Infantry. Lieut. Clark was born March 18th, 1837. At a very tender age he lost his father, leaving him in the care of a widowed mother, who endeavored to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. But when a child he thought he found peace in believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. At the age of twenty-one he enlisted in the United States service, where his manly and soldierly conduct soon won him the honorable position of First Lieutenant. And from the breaking out of the slaveholders' rebellion to the day of his death he distinguished himself for patriotism and bravery. On the 22nd of Oct., 1862, he married Mrs. Sophronia, only daughter of Rev. J. Macomber, of New Lisbon. (A few days after his marriage, he returned to the Army, where he remained a faithful husband and soldier, his frequent letters showing his ardent

W.I.

love and attachment to his wife as well as his country, and his firm and unswerving trust in God, till that fatal battle of Chickamauga, where acting as adjutant he was struck by a ball in the right arm, shattering the bone badly above the elbow. He was taken to the hospital at Nashville, where his wound proved fatal Oct. 20th, leaving a young wife, aged mother, brothers and sisters to mourn---not as those who mourn without hope, for they have good reason to believe that he laid down his armor to put on his crown. *Examiner* please copy.

There is a good deal of family information in the obituary of Almira Clark Fay:

Death of Mrs. Almira Fay.

Mrs. Fay died at her home in this village at 11 o'clock Friday morning. Her health had been failing for some two years and she had suffered a great deal, but it was but a few days before her death that it was plain the end was near. For 62 years she lived on the farm where she died, living in three different houses, first occupying the house now owned by G. E. Ryckman, and the one just east of the wine cellar, both places originally belonging to the family. Mrs. Fay's maiden name was Almira Clark and she was the daughter of John T. Clark. She was born on what is known as the Jonas Farnham place in the town of Pomfret, about three miles southeast of the village, in 1821. When she was ten years old her parents moved to Ohio where the family remained for six months when they returned to this place. After a residence here of seven years they removed to Wisconsin. She has two sisters and one brother living in Minnesota.

At the age of 20 she married Clinton S. Fay who died in 1879. To them were born six children, four of whom are still living, Carey S., and Alice R. Fay, Lucy A. Skinner and Julia M. LaDue.

Mrs. Fay was of a bright and cheerful disposition. Her thoughtfulness for others was wonderfully apparent even when suffering intensely. She was ever ready to lend a helping hand to her neighbors, and many an old resident recall her kindly offices on many occasions. For 64 years she was a consistent member of the Baptist church. Her funeral was held from the family residence at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, the Rev. J. S. Blanden conducting the services. Interment in Evergreen cemetery.

Mrs. Lucy K. Morton of Spartansburg, who came here to attend the funeral of Mrs. Almira Fay, will remain for a short time. She was the only relative of the deceased father's family that attended the funeral, the few that are still living being residents of Minnesota. She is a cousin of the deceased.

By provisions of the will of the late Mrs. Almira Fay the property is equally divided among her four children and it is not likely the farm will be sold or the old home broken up for some years to come. It was mutually agreed that the proceeds of the place for the next year shall go to Miss Alice Fay who has ever been with her mother. Herman Genske, who was in Mrs. Fay's employ for 11 years, and who gave up his situation a few weeks ago, will once more have charge of the farm work.

My husband's great-grandmother's obituary confirms a great deal of genealogical information:

1910

MRS. DRAKE PASSES AWAY.

Death Calls Another of Rice County's Pioneers.

Another of Rice County pioneer women passed away on Friday of last week, when the death of Mrs. Martha Clark Drake occurred at her home on Union street after an illness of several months. The funeral took place from the home at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Rev. Keesey officiating. Many sorrowing friends and relatives were present at the services and followed the bier to the Northfield cemetery, where the interment was made.

Martha Clark Drake was born in Chautauqua county, New York, August 11, 1831, and came when a child with her parents to Racine county, Wis., where she grew to womanhood, and was married to Edwin S. Drake. They moved to Minnesota in April, 1854, and settled in Houston county, removing to Rice county in 1855. They removed to this city in 1895, where she has resided until she quietly passed away on October 7, 1910, her husband having died April 29, 1909.

She leaves one twin sister, Mrs. Maria Rogers of Pine Island, Minn. She was the mother of nine children, one son, Charles, died in infancy, the rest all survive her. Arthur I. and Joseph E. of Northfield, Mrs. M. I. Harrison of Minneapolis, Mrs. M. E. Bullock of Bowman, N. D., Mrs. H. A. Whittier of Northfield, Sumner E., who lives on the old home farm south of town, Mrs. C. H. Wirtz of Knox, N. D., and Will E. of this city.

Mrs. Drake had lived a consistent, Christian life and was greatly beloved by her family, always thoughtful of everyone but herself. She was much respected by all who knew her.

We pick up more information on Solomon Clark's daughter Martha who married Marion Watts:

1894 Nov. 9
TO THE OTHER SHORE.

Mrs. F. M. Watts Passes Away Friday Afternoon After a Lingerin Illness.

The death of Mrs. F. M. Watts on Friday afternoon, November 9, calls forth the sympathy of the entire community for the bereaved husband, children and relatives. Funeral services were held at the residence Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. W. C. Rice, whose remarks we publish in full below.

1894

Martha Clark Watts was born in Northfield, Minn., November 10, 1865, and died in Zumbrota November 9, 1894—twenty-nine years old. She was married to her now bereaved husband December 5, 1883. To him she has left the priceless legacy of a character so stainless, of a life so pure, of a devotion so boundless, of a faith so sublime, that despite the crushing loss of her absence, fills his heart with the truest riches of our human estate, that is the memory of a loving wife, a wise counselor, a faithful friend. To his care she has bequeathed three precious children Mrs. Watts' disease was consumption.

These two obituaries give further information on Sarah Clark Greene and one of her sons. You find that Sarah outlived her husband, sons Franklin and George and daughter Eunice. It also gives two grandchildren as survivors: Clarissa's daughter Ruth Flanders and Alice's son Thomas DeCoudres.

Another Physician Gone:—Dr. G. C. Green expired on Friday at noon. He was attended during his short illness by numerous friends in the village, by medical practitioners from home and abroad, and by his parents, brother and sister from Walworth county. His stay has been short among us but he leaves many friends who will long remember him for his kindness of heart and social and generous nature.

His remains were followed to the train this morning by the I. O. G. T. of this place, of which he was an honored member. He will be buried Monday, at the home of his parents, in Spring Prairie, Wisconsin.

1894

Mrs. Sarah A. Greene died at Spring Prairie, Wis., Sept. 26, 1894. Mrs. Greene was the daughter of John T. Clark and was born in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, N.Y., Aug. 13, 1823. With her father's family she moved to Raymond, Wis., in 1838, from which place she was married to George Greene of Muskego, Waukesha County. The family lived in Muskego until 1864 when they moved to Spring Prairie. From this home the husband and three children were buried. Mrs. P. W. Flanders of Elkhorn, Mrs. T. L. DeCoudres of Pasadena, Cal., Annie M. and Charles P. Greene of Spring Prairie and two grand children, Ruth E. Flanders and Thomas Greene DeCoudres, survive her. In the absence of the Rev. Davidson, her pastor, Rev. J. R. Baldwin of Elkhorn, was called to preach the funeral sermon, Saturday, Sept. 29.

This obituary gives us a bit more information on Minerva Clark and shows that she didn't "die young!" It also tells us that her husband Joseph died in 1892 and that her sister Sarah's daughter Annie, son Charles and son-in-law P. W. Flanders had cared for their aunt.

1896 Aug. 25
Death of Mrs. Dykeman.

Mrs. Minerva B. Dykeman died at her home on North Broad street, Elkhorn, Tuesday morning, August 25th, 1896. Mrs. Dykeman's maiden name was Clark. She was born at Portland, New York, Oct. 15, 1828. Came to Raymond, Racine County, Wisconsin, in 1838. Was married to Joseph Dykeman, December 20th, 1869.

Two years later they moved to Elkhorn, where they lived happily together till May 1892, when Mr. Dykeman died. Since that time she has lived alone, until sickness came upon her about one year ago.

Mrs. Dykeman had some sisters and a brother, and nieces and nephew, Mr. P. W. Flanders and Miss Greene, and C. P. Greene, who kindly ministered to her in her last days.

The funeral was held at the house, yesterday, at 1:30., Rev. E. C. Potter officiating. The choir and organist were the same as for the funeral services for Mr. Dykeman in 1892, Viz. Mrs. M. T. Park, Mrs. Go. Short and Messes. Atkins and Park, Mrs. C. A. Daniel, organist.

The pall bearers were C. P. Greene, P. W. Flanders, T. L. DeCoudres, and M. Taylor.

The burial was at Springfield.

The following two wedding announcements confirm marriages of two of Almira Clark Fay's children:

1905 April 18

LaDUE-FAY WEDDING The marriage of E. E. LaDue of Ripley and Miss Julia Fay of Brocton, was solemnized Wednesday, April 18, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Elmira Fay, Rev. J.

M. Blanden officiating. Miss Fay has but recently returned from Albany, where for two years she has been stenographer for the assembly. She has a wide circle of friends who know her but to love her, and she received many tokens of kindness in wedding presents. Mr. LaDue was formerly from Brocton and both there and here he has a host of friends. After the wedding dinner and after being heartily congratulated by the friends present, the happy couple came to Ripley, where they will reside. —Ripley Cor.

1908

OTTERBACK-FAY WEDDING

Mrs. Anna M. Otterback of Portland and Cary S. Fay of Brockton, were untied in marriage at the M. E. parsonage at Fredonia, last Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m., by the Rev. Cleveland. They are making their home on the Addison Barringer farm.

by Dorothy Chster Herkenratt

ASSESSMENT OF CANNON CITY TOWNSHIP RECORDS MADE

On a very hot July 18th, Harriet Berg, Audrey DeMann, Norma Gilbertson, Dorothy and Richard Herkenratt, and Arlene and Ed Williams gathered at the Cannon City Town Hall to meet with Marilyn Caron, the town clerk, and Cynthia Bauer, the town treasurer, to inspect, assess and catalog the Cannon City Township records. Both Marilyn and Cynthia were relatively new to the town board so were not familiar with what records were available. Both were as eager as we to see what was available and opened cupboards and inspected shelves containing all sorts of records. It was found that the 1880's records of births and deaths were not bound, with only a few pages containing records and the majority being blank. On inspection, it appeared the pages had been water damaged at some point with some indication that they had been in a fire. Cynthia confirmed this later after making inquiries and said that the book had been disassembled after a fire to salvage as many of the records as possible. Later volumes, including tax assessments, land records, meeting minutes, etc., appeared to be in good condition. Harriet inventoried the records which we viewed, and Audrey, Harriet, Norma and Ed took the pages from the 1880's as they were found and spent some time reassembling them in order. It could be that other pages will be located and can be added to this "book." RCGS members who are interested in copying family records have been invited by Cynthia Bauer to call her at 507-334-7659 to schedule a mutually convenient time as the weather cools.

What we found shows how important it is that copies of records be made and kept off-site so materials will still be available in case of a disaster such as another fire, tornado or other catastrophe.

RICE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INVITED TO ASSESS WHEELING TOWNSHIP RECORDS

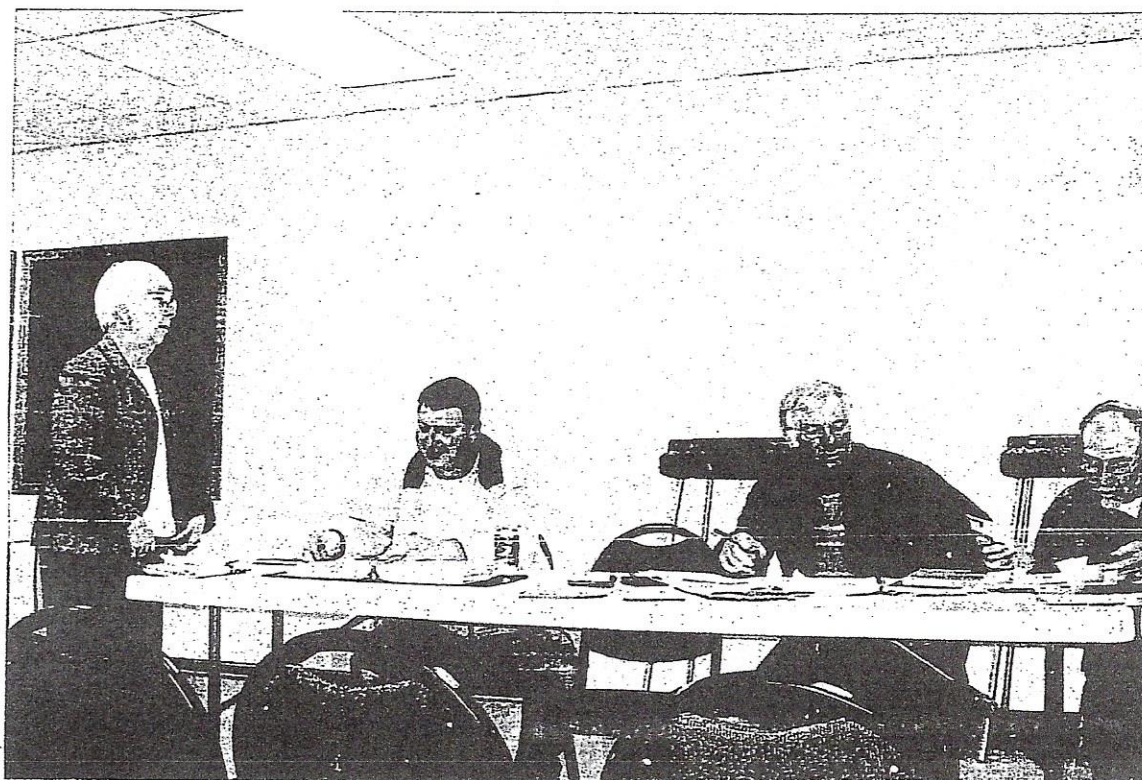
We also have been invited by Wheeling Township to inspect, inventory and copy their records as some of the board members are anxious to have copies preserved outside of the Town Hall. Our members need only to contact Martin Budde at 507-332-8366 at our convenience and he will see that we have access to the records. He will be happy to personally be there to represent the Board.

RESEARCH ON CAPT. ROBERT RICHARD HUTCHINSON BEING CONDUCTED FOR RICE CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY - PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY HARRIET BERG

The Rice Co. Genealogical Society has been asked by the Rice Co. Historical Society to research the background of Capt. Robert R. Hutchinson, the original owner of a Civil War flag given to the RCHS in 1946 by his daughter-in-law, Ella Hutchinson. Capt. Hutchinson was the original owner of the regimental flag from his company, Company C, 6th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Originally it was known that Capt. Hutchinson was born in Canada and lived in the Dundas and Bridgewater Twp. area of Rice Co.

This project was undertaken by Harriet Berg, and the materials assembled to date are in a three-ring binder with a photo of Capt. Hutchinson and the title placed on the front cover. The finished research will include copies of his full pension and military records files. It is contemplated that copies of the completed Hutchinson book will be placed in our archives as well as those for the Rice Co. Historical Society. It is possible that additional copies will be made for sale to other persons or organizations. Harriet plans to complete this project before the end of the year.

FOREST TOWNSHIP RECORDS PROJECT COMPLETED



Audrey DeMann, president of the Rice County Genealogical Society, is shown presenting the copies of the Forest Township Vital Records Books to members of the Township Board on April 4, 2007.

Photo furnished by Dorothy Chester Herkenratt

The members of the Rice County Genealogical Society are pleased to report that they have completed their project of copying the Forest Township Vital Records in order to preserve the originals from deterioration by those who ordinarily would be researching in the originals. Bound copies were presented to Township Board members at their April 4, 2007 meeting by Audrey DeMann, RCGS president, who stated that this was the result of group effort with much credit going to Harriet Berg, a member from St. Paul with roots in Forest Township, for the completion of the books. Audrey stressed the importance of these records, particularly for genealogists, and thanked the board for the care they have given the original books. Accompanying Audrey for the presentation were RCGS secretary-treasurer Dorothy Herkenratt and RCGS member Chuck DeMann. It is interesting to note that Audrey wasn't allowed to complete her presentation as members of the Town Board immediately took possession of the two bound books so they could examine them. Board members expressed surprise at what was included in the copies as some had not been aware of what information was available in the records possessed by the township.

RCGS has placed copies of the books with the Rice County Historical Society's Research Room at the museum in Faribault as well as in the society's archives in the Marston Headley Research Room at the Northfield Historical Society museum.

This was the first project copying records for public use in order to preserve the originals. It will be decided at a later date if the RCGS will embark on copying records from other Rice County townships as other town boards have expressed interest in the preservation of records through copying.

HELP WANTED

All members are encouraged to place queries with the RCGS. There is no charge and no limit to the numbers of queries per year. They will be printed as space permits and as soon as possible after they are received. Please type, print or write clearly. Words should be written in full to minimize errors. We may at our discretion use some abbreviations. Non-members will be charged a fee of \$5 per entry. In addition, we will print group sheets, ancestor charts, pedigree or Ahnentafel (European) charts, and descendant charts for people with Rice County connections - free for members, \$2 per sheet for non-members or we will print one free in connection with a non-member query submission. Again, they will be printed as space permits and as soon as possible after they are received.

#1-2007 Dorothy Chester Herkenratt, 2405 NW 2nd Ave., Faribault, MN 55021
Looking for copy of the Job & Anne Maria Jeffries Chester family Bible records. Job Chester (b. 22 July 1818 Naseby, Northamptonshire, Eng. - d. 5 Mar. 1897 Bridgewater Twp., Rice Co., MN) m. 1844 in Alton, IL Anne Maria Jeffries (b. 16 May 1816 Halifax, Nova Scotia, CAN - d. 12 Nov. 1912 Bridgewater Twp., Rice Co., MN). Children: Job Jeffries (b. 28 July 1845 Racine Co., WI - d. 26 July 1930 Dundas, Rice Co., MN), William Frederick (b. 21 Nov. 1848 Racine Co., WI - d. 9 July 1929 Dundas, Rice Co., MN), Anne Maria (b. 24 Mar. 1851 Racine Co., WI - d. 23 Aug. 1914 Bridgewater Twp., Rice Co., MN), Edward Clarence "Ned" (b. 12 Dec. 1852 Racine Co., WI - d. 12 Jan. 1916 Bridgewater Twp., Rice Co., MN), and Mary (dates of b. & d. unknown, buried on the homestead). Anne, Ned & Mary never married. The Job Jeffries & Eleanor Hoyt Chester family lived in Bridgewater Twp. and Eleanor Hoyt Chester d. 8 Mar. 1940 at her daughter Mary Etta (Mrs. Jos. T.) Holmes' (b. Mar. 1871 - d. 25 Dec. 1968) home in Bridgewater Twp. Their other children, also born in Bridgewater Twp., were William Everett (b. 22 Nov. 1869 - d. 27 Jan. 1955) and Anne Jeffries (Mrs. Chester Wayne) Terry (b. 31 May 1873 - d. 16 Feb. 1965). The Chester/Jeffries Bible remained with the Job J. & Eleanor Hoyt Chester family and was in the Jos. T. Holmes home when the Holmes' son John moved from the family home, leaving the furnishings behind for the tenants. Inquiries have produced no indication who acquired the Bible. We are offering \$25 to whoever has access to this Bible for a photograph/certified copy of these family records.

#2-2007 Dorothy Chester Herkenratt, 2405 NW 2nd Ave., Faribault, MN 55021
Looking for copy of The Drake Family History researched by Lelia J. Drake Clarke of Chicago, her brother Linn P. Drake of PA, and their father Dr. Charles Drake, younger brother of Joseph Drake who died in 28 Apr. 1857 in Rice Co. Joseph's grandson, Arthur I. Drake of Northfield, verified some of the facts known to him for the PA Drakes. The book also included records gathered by the Drake Relations Association of New Castle, PA, as well as many family stories which had been written and passed down to various family members. The book was published by Lelia J. Drake Clark who came to Minneapolis from Chicago to work as a Linotype operator with the Minneapolis Journal.

#3-2007 Donna Ellenson, 34313 544th Ave., Warroad, MN 56763 e-mail: dmse@mncable.net
Researching Truls Ellenson family history from the time he came over from Norway. He married twice, had fifteen children and took in a foster child, a grand-niece of his first wife, Anna. Found what happened to all but one, Gunnild Ellenson. Truls went by names Ellingson, Erlandson, Snedkerplad, Snikkerpladsen, and Ellenson. Would like any information on Gunnild Ellenson b. 1 Nov. 1855 in Wheeling Twp., Rice Co., MN. She is the dau. of Truls Ellenson Anna Torjustdotter Gutterud. Last information on her was she was a witness at her half-brother, Theodore Joseph Ellenson, who was baptized in 1878 at Valley Grove Church. He was either a Snikkerpladsen or Ellingson.

NOTICE: When members have a news item, query, list of lines being searched, or any other notice of interest to the general membership, please give or send the item to Dorothy Chester Herkenratt, 2405 NW 2nd Ave., Faribault 55021 so that it can be included in the Newsletter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A big thank you to Harriet Berg who is in the process of cataloging and tagging the holdings of RCGS in the Marston Headley Research Room. She is the one who indexed and completed the books of Forest Township Vital Records, copies of which have been placed in our archives, with the Forest Twp. Board and The Rice County Historical Society. These records are now be available for researchers at all three locations.

Rice County Genealogical Society
408 Division Street
Northfield, MN 55057

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Dorothy Herkenratt, Sec.-Treas.
2405 NW 2nd Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

Form 4/2006